BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS: CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE

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HOSTED BY DALLAS UJIMA

FEBRUARY 15-19, 1996

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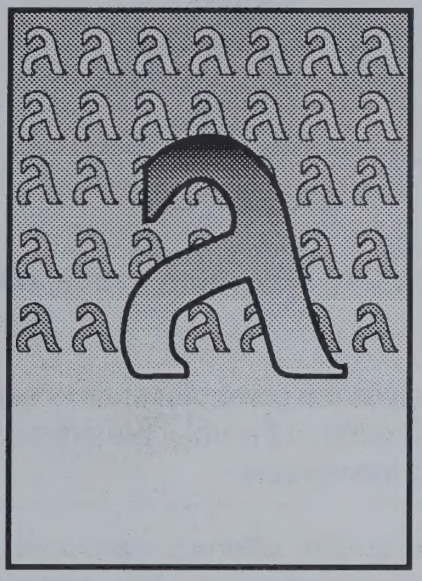

PRESENTS
THE NINTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY CONFERENCE
February 15-19, 1996
The Harvey Hotel Brook Hollow
Dallas, Texas

Theme:
"Black Lesbians and Gays:
Continuing The Struggle"

Sponsored by the:
The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

Russell Thornhill, *Chairperson, Program Book Committee*
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RONALD KIRK

MAYOR

CITY OF DALLAS

GREETINGS!

National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

As Mayor of the City of Dallas, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Dallas for the National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum. We are proud to be your host city and look forward to making your visit memorable.

Dallas is an exciting and growing city, offering many cultural and social outlets and numerous political and economic opportunities. The participants in the National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference 1996 will find several wonderful areas to visit and entertaining things to do.

I invite each of you to enjoy our beautiful city and the many places and attractions that offer the best shopping, food, and entertainment anywhere. We have a world-class symphony, art museum, many fine theaters and a diversity of cultural centers and events. Dallas has something for everyone!

I wish you a successful and exciting event and encourage you to visit our city again in the future.

Sincerely,

Ron Kirk
Mayor

RK/lr

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY HALL DALLAS, TEXAS 75201 TELEPHONE 214/670-4054

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Dedication

The Board of Directors and the Conference Steering Committee wish to dedicate this Ninth Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference to the memory of two of our greatest warriors. Each helped to shape a generation of activists, teachers and leaders, and bequeathed to us their courage, wisdom and vision of the future. We salute you and lift your lives, voices and humanity before us as a testament to our highest aspirations

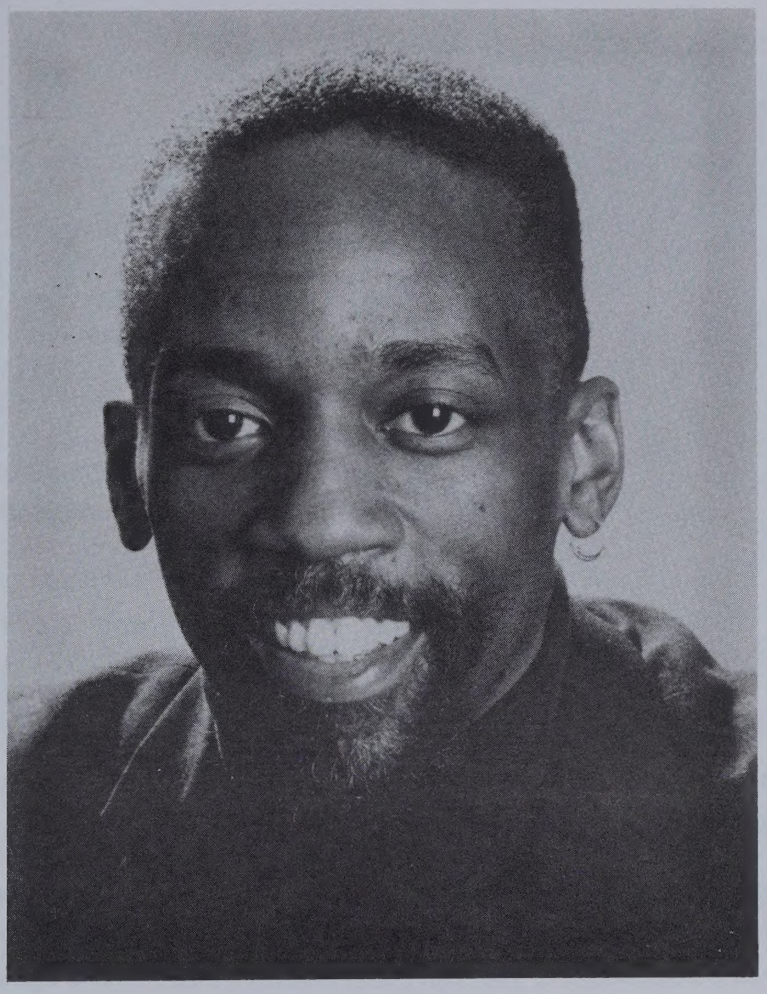
Representative Barbara Jordan

Whereupon hearing her riveting affirmation of her faith in the US. Constitution before a select House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, one Texas Senator declared, " I looked down to see if she was reading from stone tablets.."

Indeed, how can one not be profoundly moved by the command and powerful utterances of such a dynamic, proud woman of African descent.

Elected to the State Senate in 1966, she claimed prominence as the first Black to do so in Texas' history. Jordan forever sealed her rightful place in our hearts, minds and aspirations when, in 1972, she became the first southern Black to be elected to the US. Congress since Reconstruction.

There exists among us a deep and hallowed place for our heroine, our mother, our friend in battle, and the silencing of her voice continues to resound loudly in our ears and in our souls - bidding us to finish fighting the good fight.



Essex Hemphill

His poetry and essays captured the attention of a generation of self identified, proud Black Gay men and his words gave voice to our isolation, pain, joys and caused us to examine how we love in the age of AIDS.

For some, his prose was razor sharp — challenging, probing and succinct, for others he articulated our deepest desires and longings. His contributions and collaborations with other artists helped to shape a new path in the Black Lesbian and Gay experience.

Engaging, humorous, reflective and vibrant, Essex gave to us the greatest possible legacy - ourselves.

From The Forum Founders:

February, 1996

Dear 1996 Conference Attendees,

This weekend is another giant step in a dream come true of "Continuing the Struggle"

With the ongoing "Contract on America," the ultra-right, the division within our own communities along with the ongoing losses to breast cancer and HIV disease, participation this weekend in the heart of the "Belt" can be one that you will remember with pride.

Many of you only know about the Civil Rights fights of the "60's" from T.V. or readings, and if you are still working , the attack on affirmative action may not have hit home yet. If you are a separatist, you may not want to believe we need all of us to win the struggle and not continue bashing all who do not agree with you. Today it is critical that we work together. With a national Board of Directors and an Executive Director we will be stronger and better able to "Continue the Struggle".

What does this mean to you? You now have the responsibility of making it work. How? Learning to get past your bias, forming coalitions with the Heterosexual and Religious communities, forming chapters or affiliations with the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, letting your closeted friends know how they can help until they are strong enough to become visible.

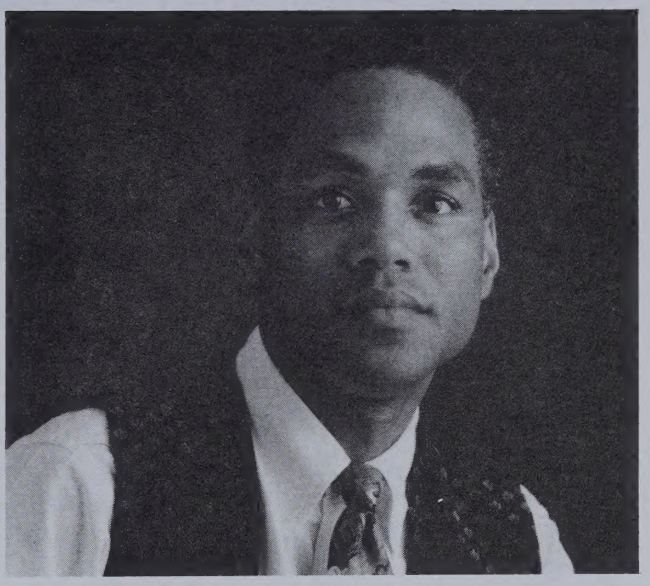
We must come together young , old and in-between sharing our knowledge and experience. Have fun, enjoy the conference knowing that you can be part of making the dream come true and the struggle end with victory. Love and respect yourself.

We can do this.

With you in the struggle,

Ruth Waters

February 1996



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to Dallas. Welcome to the Harvey Hotel. Welcome to the Ninth Annual National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference. Welcome to the new National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum! Much has happened since last we gathered. There is a new national board of directors, a new male co-chair, a new executive director, a new vision for the organization.

This weekend, please take the time to meet members of the board and Keith Boykin, the Executive Director, let them know what your needs and expectations are of your organization. But most importantly, let them know how you plan to participate to help make this organization live up to its potential.

Ten years ago critics said this conference could not, should and would not be done. Could not, because there was not enough time or money. Should not because the people involved did not have enough or the right experience. Would not because Black Gays and Lesbians would refuse to co-operate, would not support, would not come. Our answer then and now is in your presence and participation:

We could! We should! We would! We did!

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is about leadership, crossing boundaries, defying barriers, leaping into the unknown. Those whom we hoped to reach, we have become. That which we hoped to find, we have created. You should be proud of what you have accomplished. You have not been obscure. Mayors and Senators have come forth to honor you. The media competes to tell your tale.

We are diverse; but, we cannot be broken and divided. We know who we are, what each of us can do, and how to work together. We are learning to make hard decisions, to stand by them, to support each other, and move beyond mistakes.

What this conference seeks to offer us is knowledge of our own power. Through the selection of speakers, new and useful skills, through the selection of workshops, and inspiration, through shared success and joy; we hope you leave with something that will help you do the work you need to do and live the life you need to live. The moment and power is ours. Let us act! Take care of yourself and your blessings.

Yours in the struggle,

Phill Wilson

Phill

Welcome...From The Co-Chairs:

Sistahs and Brothahs...in the Struggle:

Has it really been a year already? Seems like only yesterday we were gathering together in Los Angeles to discuss the political climate and the Republican's CONTRACT ON AMERICA. Now, here it is 1996, and we are coming together again to revel, rejuvenate and reclaim.

The last twelve months have been the most exciting in the herstory of what is now the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum....from the Summit in February 95 where we pushed the envelope and concentrated on our political empowerment; to the formation of the Interim National Board of Directors who are charged with building the organization's national structure; to the hiring of Keith Boykin as our first Executive Director, the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum has been on the move. There have been rough spots and some growing pains, but the members of the Board and staff are committed to continuing the struggle to create the national organization that will serve us all better in the months and years to come. Join us as we are "Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle."

From the "trial of the century," to the attacks on affirmative action, to the inhumanities perpetrated at home and in far off places; 1995 proved to be a year of broken lives and shattered dreams. But 1995 also proved to be the year of unrelenting hope as witnessed by the visible and vocal presence of Lesbians at the International Women's Conference in Beijing, the coming together of Black Lesbians and Gay men from Denver to Chicago to Houston, and the defeat of anti-lesbian/gay initiatives. As Lesbians and Gay men of African descent, it is imperative that we continue to take a vested interest in our overall well being and stand firm against the attacks that seek to deny us equal protection under the law.

Black Americans lost a heroine on January 17 when former Rep. Barbara departed this life for higher ground. To paraphrase her words from the 1992 Democratic National Convention, "...when the Constitution was written, 'We the People,' did not include us as Black Lesbians and Gay men, but we must fight to ensure that we are included in 'We the People,' and once we get there, continue to fight to make sure that we remain."

As we gather together in Dallas, in the heart of the bible belt, we must renew our energies to continue the struggle. Let's have fun, rekindle old friendships and forge new ones, but let us not forget our purpose....to take our experiences home and continue to make life better for ourselves and generations of Lesbians and Gay men of African descent to come.

Enjoy Dallas and each other!

And the Struggle Continues....

Vallerie D. Wagner
NBGLLF Co-Chair
96 Conference Co-Chair

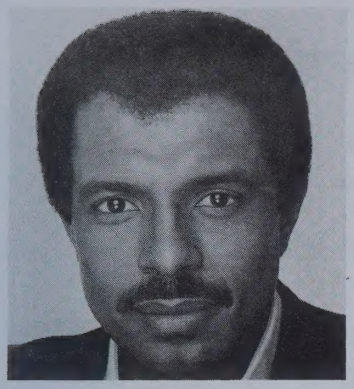
Dear Friends:

It is with pride and a sense of awe that we welcome everyone to the 1996 National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference.

As we approach the end of the first decade of our existence, we can collectively access a legacy of accomplishments that boasts a portfolio of seven national conferences, a political summit, national education and training programs, community fora, women's and men's symposia, an HIV/AIDS prevention & treatment access team and the formation of an informal national network.

And yet, we are here gathered, at a time when the Gay & Lesbian community as a whole are winning small, incremental battles in the nation's courts. But we, of the African American experience, must wage battles specific to the pandemic's continuing devastation of communities of color, Lesbian health issues remaining without significant champion, and the Religious Right's staging of a full frontal assault on our church going populace, to negate any safe space we may endeavor to construct.

Internally, we continue to struggle with sexism and ambient, horizontal anger resulting in internecine confrontations and the consumption of our own. The pathway to our youth remains undefined and the pathway to each other is, at times, hazardous, at best.



To be "Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle" is to be provided the extraordinary opportunity to extrapolate our original mission, through the infrastructure of a newly-nationalized organization, to the African American community at-large. These can and will be exciting, wonderful times as we prepare to permanently install ourselves, as an organization, on the dais of the national debate.

And so, in welcoming you, we also challenge you to use these days to find and celebrate the value in one another and to allow those discoveries to mold the bonds & strategies that will convert today's struggle into tomorrow's peace.

Now and forever, may we wish you,

All the very best,

Stephan Oxendine
Stephan Oxendine,
NBGLLF Co-Chair

Welcome Sisters and Brothers:

Willing or not, ready or not, we are all involved in an all-out, no holds-barred, social and economic competition. Most of us are not competitors, however, we know that we must fight. We must continue in a struggle that is singular. We are the stakes.

We need a 100% commitment to the education of the world community. Because an education that seeks to end sexism, racism and homophobia bevefits us all through. An education that will inspire others to know that fair and equal access to domestic partnership benefits, quality national health care and a rightful place in history.

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum seeks to provide a space that is safe and supportive to the issues for which we continue to toil. Participate. Commit yourself, and your organization to making a positive impact on the communities we all serve. Gather the tools to do so this weekend.

No doubt, we are continuing Our struggle because we must!

Enjoy the conference weekend.

Gregory J. May
96 Conference Co-Chair

Dear Conference Attendees:

On behalf of Bisexuals, Lesbians, Gay men and Transgendered people of the southern United States, I welcome you to the great state of Texas and the dynamic city of Dallas as we host the 9th Annual National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference. The theme of this year's conference, *Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle,* is evidenced by our venturing into new, unchartered waters. Not only is this the first NBLG Conference in the state of Texas, but it is also our first as the **National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**. Each of these facts represents a significant milestone. I thank each of you for becoming a part of this very special history.

I am sure you will agree that Dallas is one of the most diverse cities in the country. It is home to an active gay and lesbian community, many theaters, museums and restaurants, the Dallas Trade Center, the Dallas Fashion District, the World Champion Dallas Cowboys, and a host of other cultural and community activities.

May you leave Dallas with a different spirit and attitude than when you arrived, taking with you the spirit of the occasion, renewed confidence in yourself, a new sense of empowerment, and a greater respect for life. We can be successful at *Continuing the Struggle* by enlisting a new team of warriors.

If at any time I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to ask. Again I thank you for attending the conference, and I wish you the very best! Enjoy!

Forever yours in the struggle,

Steve Walker
Steve Walker
Regional Conference Co-Chair

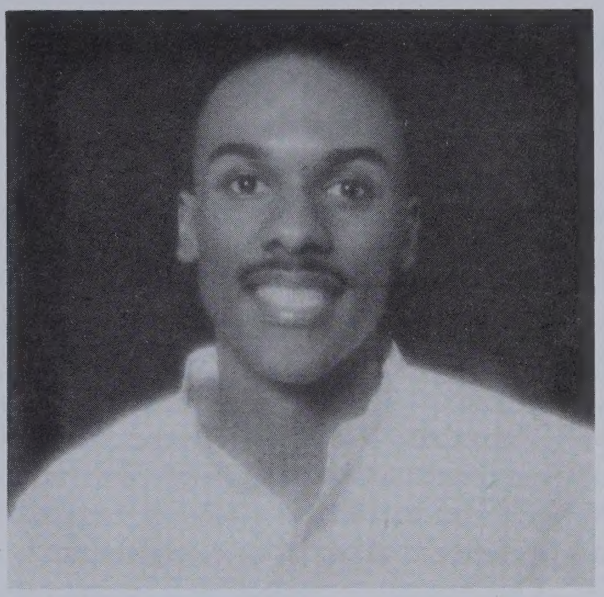
The National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

Will Meet You

At These Upcoming Events:

April	Forum Salutes Ruth Waters and Phill Wilson Fundraising Dinner *Los Angeles, CA*
May	Memorial Day 1996 - Black Gay and Lesbian Pride *Washington, D.C.*
June	East Coast Fundraiser *New York, NY*
Spring/Summer	Black Family Reunion Events Nationwide *All Major Cities*
July	AT THE BEACH - Beach Baby Bingo *Malibu, CA*
July	NAACP Convention Reception *Charlotte, NC*
August	Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention Reception *Detroit, MI*
August	Democratic National Convention Reception - United Center *Chicago, IL*
September	Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Weekend Reception *Washington, D.C.*
October	Unity Fellowship Church National Convocation *Los Angeles, CA*
November	Creating Change Conference (National Gay & Lesbian Task Force) *To Be Determined*

Welcome...From The Executive Director



February, 1996

Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the Ninth Annual
National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference!

Organizers from Dallas, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington, New York and dozens of other cities have been working for months to plan this weekend — the nation's largest conference for, by and of black lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people. This conference provides an unprecedented opportunity to meet our sisters and brothers involved in the struggle from all parts of the country.

This year's conference occurs against a backdrop of dramatic change. Since we gathered last year, we have become a national organization with a national board of directors and a fulltime executive director. The black lesbian and gay community has also been affected by dramatic change. From Capitol Hill to the city councils, we are under attack by misguided, right-wing zealots who seek to overturn the progress of the past.

Beginning with this weekend's conference, we can put to an end to the assault in our communities. I challenge you to network with hundreds of conference participants, to share ideas, swap stories, and plan for the future. I also encourage you to get to know on another as friends. The conference participants are not just business opportunities or cards in a rolodex, the are real people with real lives, real pain and real joy.

I'm sure you will find this conference enlightening and enjoyable, and I hope you will take back what you gain this weekend to your own community. I look forward to meeting with you during this historic weekend.

Keith Boykin

Keith Boykin
Executive Director
National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

Volunteers

Dear Friends,

We celebrate you!

On behalf of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, we praise the efforts of all volunteers. Your contributions have been instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Ninth Annual National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference.

Volunteers are often referred to as the invisible workers, the unseen blood pumping life into the organizational heart. Many have worked long hours, learned new skills and had existing talents "tapped." Thank you for giving so generously. Your presence is vital. Your commitment is appreciated.

Our gratitude cannot be fully expressed within the confines of the page, nor this weekend. Your abilities shall be remembered during this conference... and beyond.

In Los Angeles...V. Renee Miranda, Noelkenya Atkins, Vallerie D. Wagner, Troy Fernandez, Ruth Waters, Debra Rose, Steven Gaskill, Russell Thornhill, Ron Singleton, Clealos Jones, Keith Boykin, Lenore Rivers, Gregory Victorianne, Gregory May, Don Thomas and Emory Smith.

In Dallas... Ujima Co-Chairs Nadine Rawls and Ronald Jefferson, Temishia Heath, Linus Spiller, Lyle Henderson, Alpha Thomas. Gayla Bell, Daniel Martin, Jackie Gray, Calvin Carter, Beverly Boxley, Tanya English, Rick Thurmond, Romaldo Allen, Haywarth Jones, tommie Ross, David Wilson, Don Sneed, Ed Brown, Phil Matthews, Ann Brown, Daryl Blake, Ronald Jefferson, Chinwe Odeluga, Gayle Bell, Cliff Elam, Vanessa Jenkins, Benny McIntosh, Harlee Carr, Jr., Ken Jackson, Eddie Redmond, Ivan Fenwick, Jerry Wyatt, Tommy Burton, Susan Masters, Lynne Person, Janet Washington and Ray Dyer.

Very Special Thanks to the following Dallas area organizations for all of their support:
UJIMA
The Men's Gathering
Umoja
BWMT
The Amazing Grace Foundation
Traxx, Inc.
The Metro
Club Escape

The National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum was established in March 1988. The organization was formed as an alternative for black Lesbians and Gay men to exchange information and to address urgent issues facing the black Gay and Lesbian community at large, from the perspective of both the black community and the Lesbian and Gay community.

The goal of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is to help strengthen existing institutions currently serving afar Lesbians and Gay men by tapping into our resources to educate and inform our black community, and non-African American organizations, of our unique contributions to black history. By exuding visible pride in our endeavors, we eradicate all forms of oppression that have been intrinsic to the black culture.

In addition to producing the annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference, now in its ninth year, the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum has implemented another facet of its purpose with the formation of the AIDS Prevention Team. The Forum remains at the forefront of the black Lesbian and Gay community by molding the AIDS Prevention Team to become one of the first black service organizations to embody all facets of services to the black HIV-infected community.

Board of Directors

Co-Chairs

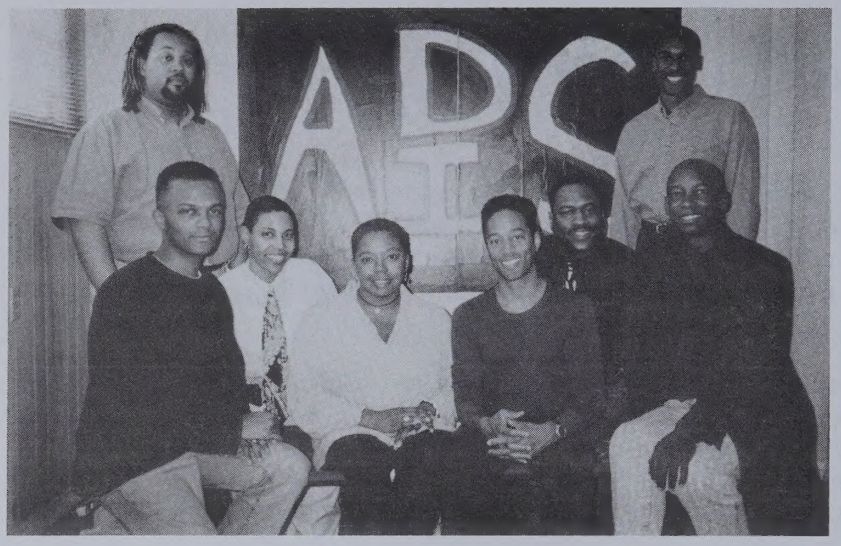
Vallerie Wagner	CA
Stephan Oxendine	PA

Board Members

Mandy Carter	NC
Gary Daffin	MA
Troy Fernández	CA
Maurice Franklin	NY
Dennis Holmes	MO
Wanda Lewis	DC
Gregory May	CA
Rev. S.F. Ma-Hee	GA
Berrita Parker	DC
Donald Ragland	CA
Debra Rose	CO
Carlton R. Smith	MD
Sabrina Sojourner	DC
Charles Tarver, IV	DC
Bruce Taylor	DC
Christine Tripp	CA
Linda Villarosa	NY
Steven Walker	TX

Members Emeritus

Ruth Waters	CA
Phill Wilson	CA



AIDS Prevention Team

The AIDS Prevention Team is a project of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The purpose of the AIDS Prevention Team is to provide AIDS prevention education, early intervention and treatment options, host safer sex workshops; for women and men, peer-to-peer counseling, and cross training workshops. The APT is committed to its purpose of developing programs, formats and services that are geared specifically to HIV- infected African American, regardless of gender.

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum remains at the forefront of the African-American Gay and Lesbian community by molding the AIDS Prevention Team to become one of the first African-American HIV/AIDS service organizations to embody all facets of services to the African-American HIV- infected community. These services are not different nor unique from other services offered by other AIDS services organizations, however what makes us unique is our committment to structuring services are facilitated by experienced and professional members of the African-American community alleviates insensitivity about treating the African-American HIV-infected community. This degree of insensitivity has garnered many levels of stress that the HIV-infected community receives when attending an agency that is not wholly multicultural in its dealing with the HIV-infected segment in people of color communities.

Services listed below profile the services and activities in which the AIDS Prevention Team currently provides and expanding programming, currently being developed.

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

The AIDS Prevention Team has produced a series of education and prevention models targeting the African American communities. Our program, titled *"Women Love 2,"* targets African American Lesbians and Bisexual womyn. It brings safer sex messages and HIV to our Sisters in a safe and hot environment. The agency targets African American Gay and Bisexual men through the *"Erotica"* program. Our models for HIV prevention/safe practices are presented in a series of workshops. The culturally sensitive curricula incorporates group discussion, role-playing, and providing participants with the ability to negotiate safer sex behaviors with a partner. Empowering participants with better knowledge of personal risk and seeks to make healthier and better informed decisions about sexual choices.

In addition to these specific workshops, Town Meeting forums are presented by the staff and volunteers for the general community to learn importance information about difference between HIV and AIDS, how to care for people who are infected with these diseases and the availability of various treatment options.

HIV SUPPORT SERVICES

For individuals who recently learned of their HIV seropositive status and/or living with HIV/AIDS daily, the AIDS Prevention Team developed the first Treatment Advocacy program in Los Angeles county for African Americans. The program currently in its fifth year provides Sisters and Brothers living with HIV or AIDS specialized attention to their HIV needs. The staff works together with each individual to develop the most appropriate treatment plan for them to maximum wellness and productive living.

The program focuses on exercise, health information, treatment information, early intervention, medical and social service resources and emotional issues surrounding HIV infection. The agency has been able to provide individuals with acupuncture, massage therapy, access to other holistic healing. The program remains in the forefront for delivering the latest and most appropriate treatment information to our community. Trained volunteers facilitate weekly groups, while guest speakers from the medical and social services community provide the more technical support.

Another component of our support services includes mental health. The AIDS Prevention Team has modeled a mental health program similar to the Treatment Advocacy program, that works to maximizing wellness and productive living. Our mental health staff and volunteer Peer Counselors provide culturally specific counseling, weekly groups, wellness presentation, and for those seeking mental wellness.

ADVOCACY

BGLLF/APT is an advocate on behalf of those infected with HIV for quality health care, increased educational programs, early intervention and practical, emotional, social and financial support services. Many advocated programs are collaborative efforts with other community-based organizations. The AIDS Prevention Team greatly advocates inclusion of people of color communities in clinical trails. By being an active member of A.C.T.G. and maintaining a close relationship with Being Alive, the AIDS Prevention Team helps clients to be exposed to current information on open and ongoing clinical trails.

COALITION BUILDING

BGLLF/APT works with various Los Angeles communities and agencies in the development of coalitions to fight HIV/AIDS especially among African-Americans. Combining community resources and coordinated services to HIV impacted individuals augments a reduced health care system. The APT has organized community meetings which invite community leaders to network, share information and learn more about how to impact this devastating disease. We have been able to form working relationships with West Hollywood Homeless Organization, Minority AIDS Project, Watts Healthcare Foundation, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and the Dunbar Economic Development Corp., just to name a few. Additionally, we are currently members of the Gay Men of Color Consortium, the Minority AIDS Consortium, and the newly formed African-American Community Coalition of Los Angeles.

AIDS PREVENTION TEAM
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Staff:

Keith O. Boykin, Executive Director
Emery D. Smith, Project Director
V. Rene Miranda, Office Manager
Blaine Teamer, Treatment Advocate
Lawrence L. Denson, Treatment Advocate
Anthony Salas, Treatment Advocate
Lenore M. Rivers, Womyn's Program Coordinator
Byron K. Bush, Community Outreach Worker - South Bay
Siri Sat Nam Singh, M.F.C.C., Holistic Healer

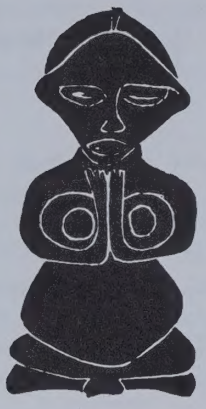
Volunteers:

Ken Adams
Jay Buxton
Jonathan Poullard
William Weinberger
Parnell D. Marcano
Joseph Gregg
Joei Dykes
Rodney D. Teague
Robert L. Anderson
Craig M. Johnson
Wendell Carmichael
Anthony Washington
Preston Smith
Robert Godfrey
Donald E. Ragland
Austin Foxxe
Nii Noye
James Lovett
Michael Morton
Michel Bujardet
Mario Nelson
Richard Davis
Shawn Griffen
Stevan Gaskill
Mike Jones
The House of Love
Bruce Eddins
Reginald Chapple
Gilbert Mixon
Gregory Manley
Kuumba Gilford
Richard Davis
Cedric Whitfield
Gregory Pond
Vince May
Troy Fernandez
Duane Bremond
Ronald Smith
Dwight Counsel
Vallerie Wagner
James Stokes
John O. Jackson
Oscar D. Smith Jr.
Joseph M. Cruz
Cletis Tucker
Andrew Carnes
Anthony Batiste
Reginald McCloud
Henri. C. Scott

Altia D. Mitchell, *Acupuncturist*
Daphina Moore, *Acupuncturist*
Michael Morgan, *Acupuncturist*
Vincent (Vinnie) Carbaugh, *Massage Theparist*

WOMEN LOVE 2
COME LEARN YOUR EROTICA OPTIONS

AIDS PREVENTION TEAM
1219 S. LaBrea Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019
213•964•7820
A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM



In Memoriam

Jai Allison
Ralph E. Anderson
Dwayne Barrow
Darryl Birt
Steve Bland
Jacques Bredat
Steve Britton
David Bunting
Hal Carter
Earnest Caruthers
Frederick L. Chaney
Donald Collins
Steven Corbin
Tommy Devine
Harvey Dunlap
Ronald P. Fields
Laurance Foster
Antonia Foxx
Parris Gill
Calvin Graves
Darryl Greer
Frank Hall
Mark Harrison
Essex Hemphill
Terri L. Jewell
Oscar "O.J." Jones
Barbara Jordan
Tony Kirksey
Amani Kuumba
Bob Lee
Thee Mack
Joseph E. Mann
Wilbert McRoberts
Richard E. Mitchell
Alan Morris
Michael Owens
Lawrence Pettie
Nomi Pope
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Keith Rush
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Floyd Smith
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Charles Swan
John Teamer
Dennis Thomas
Anton Thomas
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Frederick Turner
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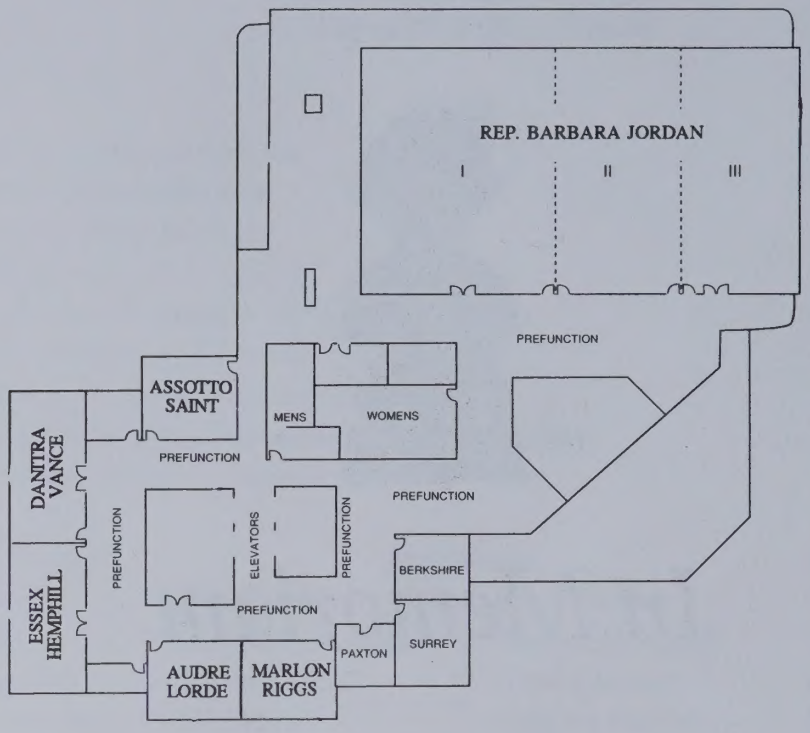
Byron Washington
G. Barry White
Anthony Williams
Glenn Wilson
Perry M. Wilson
Tonya Wilson

"Conference Meeting Rooms"



SECOND FLOOR
MEETING SPACE

FIRST FLOOR

The Naming of the Rooms

In "Naming of the Rooms." the individuals honored reveal a depth and breath of Black culture and tradition that is unique to the world community. These women and men are true testimony to a rich vein of Black herstorical thought and contemporary activism.

In selecting those to be honored, particular attention was given to contemporary Black society - politics, law, education, the family, Lesbian and Gay activism, the arts, sports and science. But it was governed by a thorough grounding in what paved the way for the present.

It is not the purpose of "The Naming of the Rooms" to identify any individual on the basis of sexual orientation. This is not an exercise in labeling. Each of the women and men whose names temporarily grace the doors of the Harvey Hotel Brook Hollow are leaders who enriched our collective heritage. Their achievements, their skills, even the way in which they lived their daily lives, has enriched ours. It is to this reality that we embrace the spirit and idealism of the warriors that have gone on before us and dedicate all conference space.

The
HARVEY HOTEL
DALLAS BROOK HOLLOW

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Naming of the Rooms

AUDRE LORDE (1934 - 1992)

"She was there behind the collective consciousness of an entire movement for 25 years. Many of us came to age under Audre Lorde's tutelage; her wisdom; her love; her anger. Some saw her as a mother, a teacher, and many more as a comrade in arms, a guiding force in our generation. She said she was all these things because perhaps, to understand any life, we have to break it down to its simplest terms: Black Lesbian, Poet, Warrior, Mother Cancer Survivor — Audre described herself in all these ways, but we all know she was much more."

MARLON RIGGS (1959 - 1994)

Emmy and Peabody award-winning filmmaker Marlon Riggs established a reputation for his insightful and controversial films that confront racism and homophobia. After first major work, *Ethnic Notions* (1987), received a National Emmy Award, Riggs went on to produce and direct the video documentary *Tongues Untied* (1989). This controversial, internationally acclaimed program was awarded a Blue Ribbon in the American Film and Video Festival, Best Video in the New York Documentary Festival, and Best Experimental Video in the San Francisco International Film and Video Festival. Riggs then produced and directed the award winning *Affirmations* (1990) and *Anthem* (1991). At the time of his death of complications due to AIDS, Riggs was in the process of completing. BLACK IS....BLACK AIN'T, a feature-length exploration of African American identity, which was completed by his production team.

ESSEX HEMPHILL (1957 - 1995)

Poet and essayist Essex Hemphill read his work at clubs, campuses, museums and such entertainment venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Art. A native of Chicago, Hemphill was educated at the University of Maryland and earned fellowships in poetry from the District of Columbia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. A visiting scholar at the J. Paul Getty Center for the History of Art and Humanities in 1993, Essex also contributed to "In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology." and the 1991 sequel, "Brother to Brother." Hemphill's work was also published in such anthologies as "The Poet Upstairs," "Natives," "Tourists and Other Mysteries." "Art Against Apartheid" and "New Men, New Minds."

REP. BARBARA JORDAN (1936 - 1996)

Former U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who rose to prominence as a member of the House Judiciary Committee that voted to impeach President Richard Nixon, died January 17, 1996. Barbara Jordan burst into the national spotlight in 1974 with her stirring defense of the Constitution during House Judiciary Committee hearings on the Watergate controversy. Jordan was elected the first Black state senator in Texas history in 1966; in 1972, she became the first southern Black elected to the U.S. Congress since Reconstruction. Jordan retired from Congress in 1979.

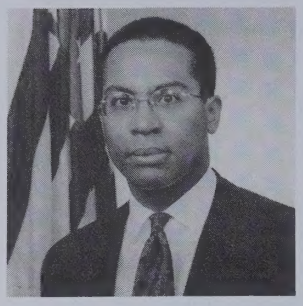
ASSOTTO SAINT (1957 - 1994)

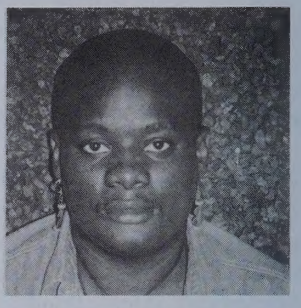
Writer, performer, AIDS activist, Yves Francois Lubin (a.k.a. Assotto Saint) was raised in Haiti and moved to New York City in 1970. While attending Queens College, he joined the Martha Graham Dance Company where his interests quickly broadened to theater and writing. Assotto was both founder and artistic director of Metamorphosis Theater. He also created theatrical works which dealt with the lives of black gay men: *Risin to the Love We Need, New Love Song, Black Fag,* and *Nuclear Lovers.* His writings have been anthologized in *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology, New Men, New Minds, Gay & Lesbian Poetry In Our Time, Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* and the upcoming British collection *Jugular Defenses.* Cultural leader and mentor, he forged new ground for many gay artists to take risks.

DANITRA VANCE (1959 - 1994)

Actress and performance artist Danitra Vance studied at the National College of Education, Roosevelt College and the Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London before beginning her career with Chicago's Second City comedy group. In 1985, she became the first black woman to join the regular cast of the television comedy show "Saturday Night Live." On stage, she was best known for her work in two off-Broadway plays for playwright George C. Wolfe — "Spunk" and "The Colored Museum." She earned an Obie award for "Spunk," in which she portrayed three women of widely ranging emotions. When the experienced actress and comedienne discovered she had cancer, Danitra created her final performance piece titled "The Radical Girl's Guide to Radical Mastectomy."

Guest Speakers





Deval Patrick is the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Justice. The Civil Rights Division is the agency of the federal government primarily responsible for enforcing federal statutes and executive orders that prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender or disability.

As Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Patrick has focused his attention on returning to vigorous enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws to provide equal opportunity and fair play for all Americans. The Division's achievements so far in Mr. Patrick's tenure include a landmark public accommodations settlement with Denny's restaurants, the defense of challenges to Congressional districts under the Voting Rights Act, groundbreaking educational and enforcement efforts under the Americans with Disabilities Act, expansion of the fair lending enforcement program, the development of a Police Misconduct Initiative and the first successful criminal prosecutions under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. More recently, Mr. Patrick has been a leader in the Administration's examination of affirmative action; he and his staff contributed significantly to the Presidents Affirmative Action Review.

Mr. Patrick graduated cum laude in from Harvard College in 1978, having majored in English and American Literature. After college, he spent a year working and traveling in the Sudan and Nigeria as a Michael Clark Rockefeller Travelling Fellow. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1982, where he served as President on the Legal Aid Bureau and won the final round of the Ames Moot Court Competition. Mr. Patrick then clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhart on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

After his clerkship, Mr. Patrick joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City as a staff attorney. There he litigated a variety of civil rights cases, specializing in capital punishment and voting rights cases. In 1986, Mr. Patrick joined a Boston law firm where he spent nearly 30% of his time on *pro bono* civil rights matters while pursuing numerous civil and commercial cases.

During his time in private practice, Mr. Patrick continued to work on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, serving on the New England Steering Committee of the Fund (including 4 years as its chair) and serving as a director on the Fund's National Board and as a member of its Executive Committee. He has also served as a board member in a number of other organizations including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, the Boston Bar Association Council and WGBH, Boston's public broadcasting station. Mr. Patrick has received numerous awards and commendations, as well as an honorary doctor of laws from the District of Columbia School of Law.

On November 10, 1994, President Clinton named **Patricia S. Fleming** to serve as

National AIDS Policy Director. In that capacity, Ms. Fleming advises the President on issues related to the Federal response to HIV and AIDS. Ms. Fleming oversees AIDS-related policies at all relevant Federal Departments and Agencies, is an integral participant in the development of the budget for AIDS-related programs, and coordinates development of AIDS policy.

A member for the White House Domestic Policy Council, Ms. Fleming also chairs the Interagency Task Force on HIV/AIDS and represents the U.S. government at international meetings on HIV and AIDS.

Ms. Fleming has spent much of her career in public service, working on Capitol Hill, the U. S. Department of Health, Education , and Welfare, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. From 1983 until his death in 1992, Ms. Fleming worked for Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), first as his Chief of Staff and later as Professional Staff Member of the Human Resources and Intergovernmental Operations Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee.

Prior to assuming her current position, Ms. Fleming was a Special Assistant to Secretary of Health and Human services Donna E. Shalala. In that capacity, Ms. Fleming coordinated and directed HIV/AIDS policy at HHS. Ms Fleming played a key role in developing the Clinton Administration's response to HIV/AIDS, including creation of the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, development of the AIDS Prevention Marketing Initiative, and a coordinated strategy to protect women and infants from HIV.

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson represents the 30th Congressional District of Texas, which includes portions of Dallas, Collin, and Tarrant counties. District 30 consists of major portions of the city of Dallas, including the central business and arts districts.

Congresswoman Johnson began her career in public office in 1972. Running as an underdog, she won a landslide victory to the Texas House of Representatives. With her election to the Texas Legislature, she became the first woman representing Callas in the Texas House since 1935. In her second legislative term, she became the first woman in the history of the state to chair a major House committee: the Labor Committee.

During her tenure in the Texas Legislature, Congresswoman Johnson has been the chief sponsor of legislation affecting the disenfranchised. She spear-headed measures to preserve neighborhoods, improve health and community services, as well as education, and was an advocate. of women's and minority issues.

In, 1992, Congresswoman Johnson won an astounding victory to the United States House of Representatives, winning 74% of the vote in the general election. She became the first Black woman from Dallas in the 30-member Texas House delegation, and the first Black woman Representative from Texas since former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Houston in the 1970's

Jacquie Bishop is a native New Yorker, freelance writer, published poet and short fiction writer, wonen's heathhcare educator and sex abd sexuality trainer. Much of her work concerns the political, the personal, the sexual, the un-examined. Her creative works have appeared in publicaions and anthologies including Tangled Sheets: Lesbian Erotica, Black Leather In Color, Park Slope News, On Our Backs, Black Lace and Womanews.

WOMEN LOVE 2

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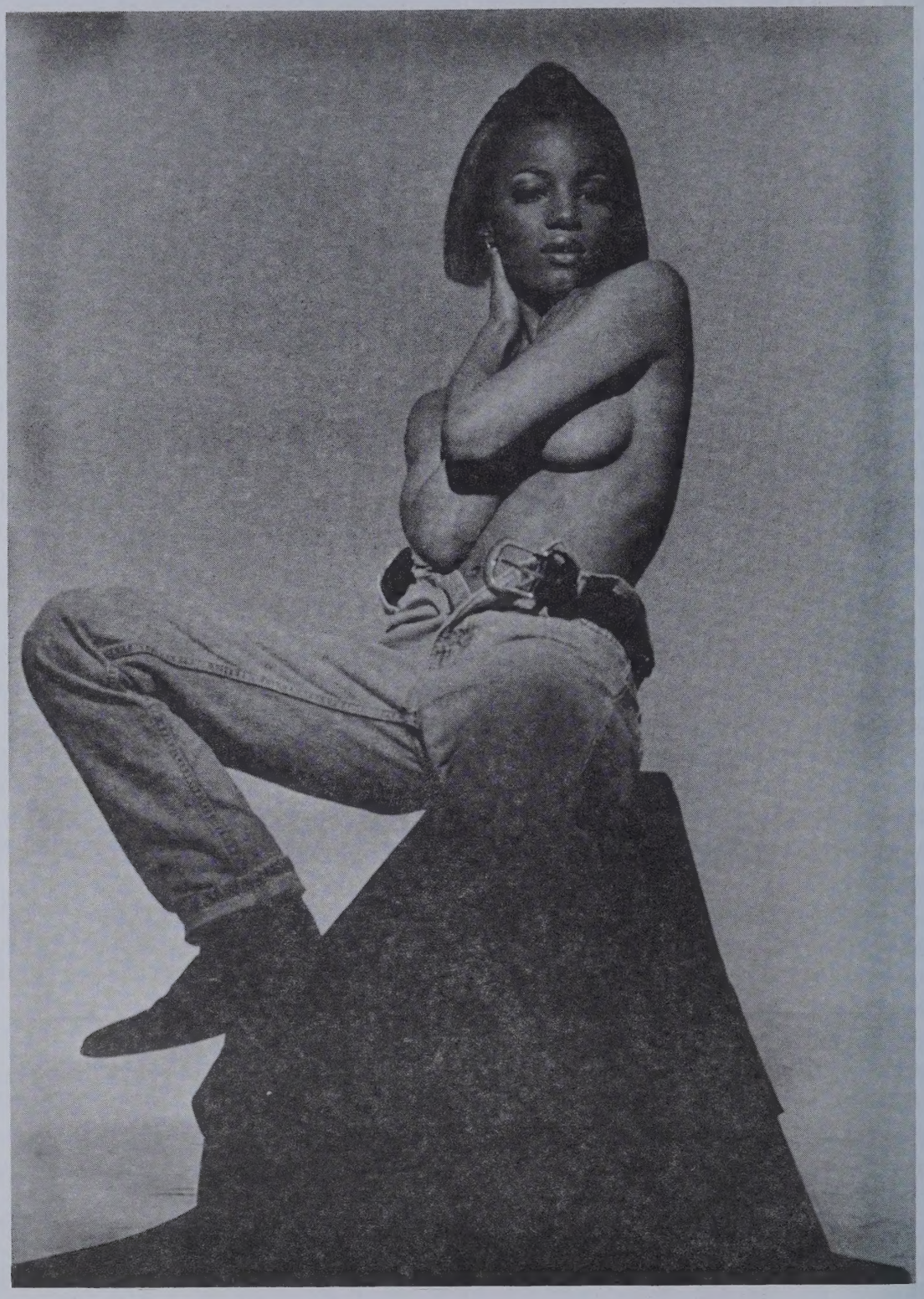


AIDS PREVENTION TEAM

1219 S. Labrea Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90019

213 • 964 • 7820

A PROJECT OF THE

NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN

LEADERSHIP FORUM

To Conference...Or Not?

by Vallerie D. Wagner

As the Board of Directors and the 95 Conference Steering Committee met in November 1994 to discuss the upcoming Eighth National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference, it was apparent that the meeting would not be 'business as usual.' The room was full and the tension could be felt by all that were present. The question...whether to continue with the conference in light of the recent passage of Proposition 187 or to cancel it in solidarity with other people of color organizations who were calling for a boycott in support of undocumented immigrants. The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum was strongly opposed to Proposition 187 and any other legislation that sought to institutionalize discrimination. The urgency of national and local agendas fostered a climate where "business as usual" was an inappropriate response as a means of educating ourselves about the issues impacting Lesbians and Gays of African descent. The community's voice was raised and BGLLF responded to its constituency. After the dust had settled, the decision was made to realign our grassroots organizing strategies to combat the threatening political realities established by the 104th Congress and the Republican's CONTRACT WITH AMERICA.

Once the decision was announced, some conference participants decided that a Summit was not for them. Others were pleased with the political focus being proposed. Still others, mostly first-timers, came out of curiosity and for the opportunity to be in the same place with hundreds of other Black Lesbians and Gay men. So we came together for the first ever Black Lesbian and Gay Summit: Our Families, Our Communities, Our Lives to discuss and share information on such topics as the Republican's Contract With America, the ongoing struggle to counter the Radical Right's infiltration of the African-American community and the effects the attacks on affirmative action and women's rights would have on our families, our communities and our lives.

What happened....that depends on who you ask! If you ask UJIMA/Dallas, they would tell you how they organized to host the Ninth Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference. If you ask Black Lesbians and Gay men in Houston, they would say that AALGA happened; the first Black Lesbian and Gay organization in that city. If you ask Summit participants they will tell you how they were motivated to carry on the struggle against oppression and committed themselves to standing up to the Radical Right's bigotry and harmful rhetoric. Some Summit participants shared their knowledge as others listened and learned, others experienced the camaraderie of Lesbians and Gay men of African descent from across the country, some made steps that brought them further out of the closet, while others partied and had a good ole time. Whatever the response, it can truly be said that something happened in Los Angeles in February 1995, that forever altered the lives of Lesbians and Gay men of African descent. Hundreds of Black Lesbians and Gay men unified their efforts to preserve the rights which are ours as Americans and have sounded the battle cry that we are and continue to be a force to be reckoned with.

THE NATIONAL BLACK GAY and LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM'S

9TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK
LESBIAN and GAY CONFERENCE:

"Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle"

Salutes the following publications for their support and committment to making sure our collective Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Transsexual voices are seen, heard and recorded:

Venus™
MAGAZINE
FOR LESBIANS AND GAYS OF COLOR

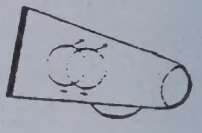
BLK

SBC
for the afrocentric homosexual you.

COLOURS
"For Progressive Men of Color"

KICK!
BLACK, GAY & FIERCE
URBAN CULTURE

THE GRIOT PRESS



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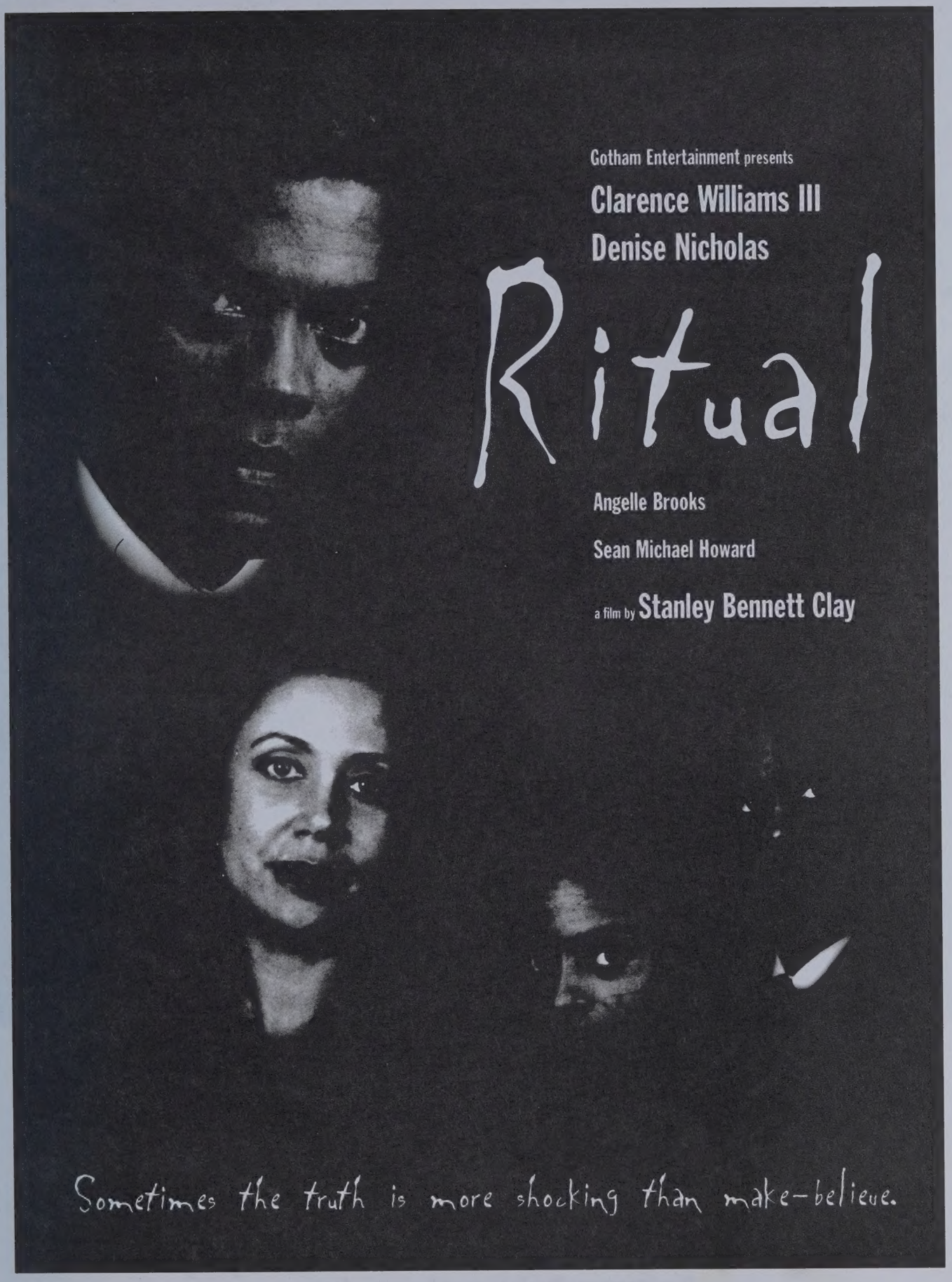
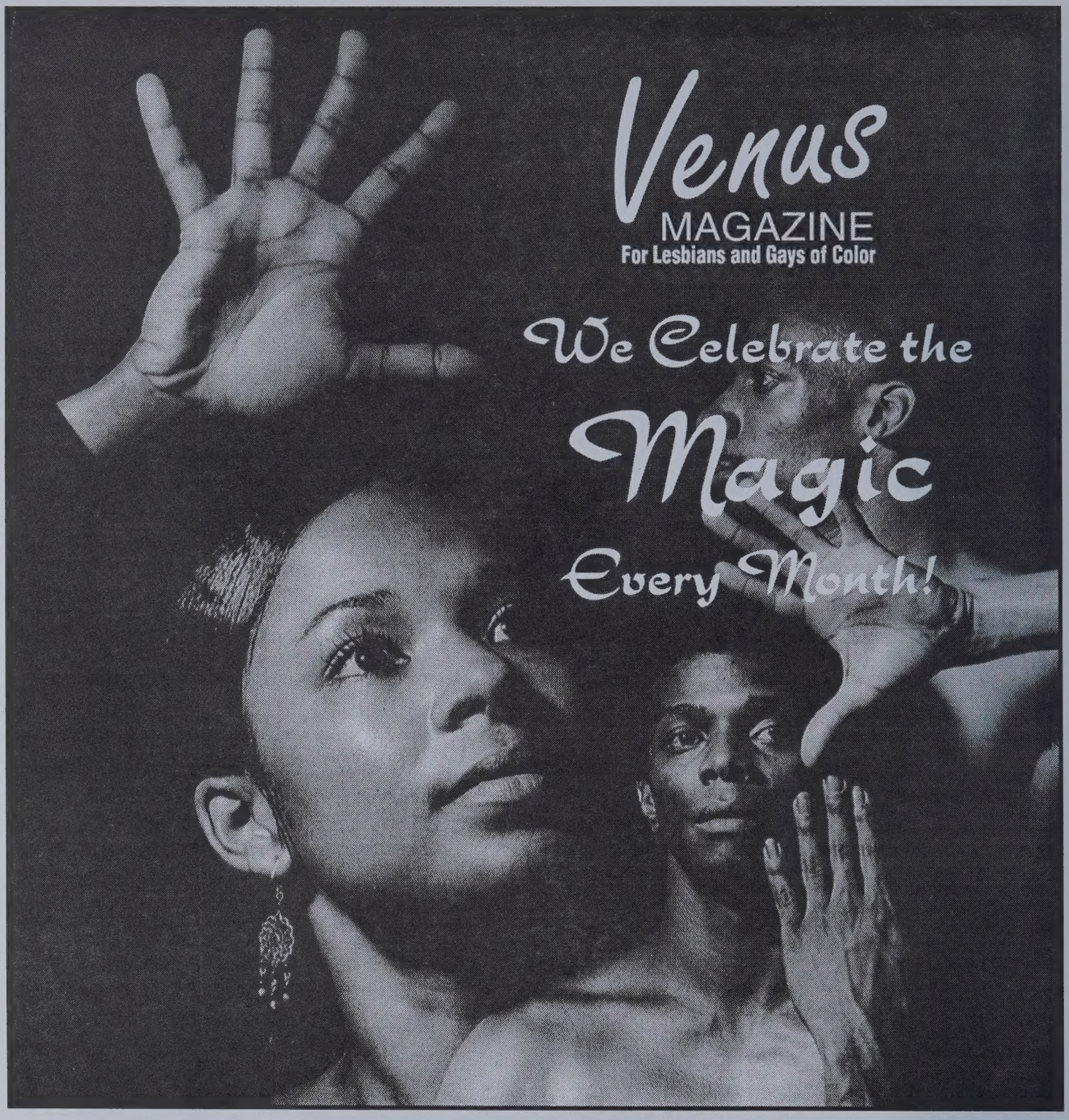

Gotham Entertainment presents
Clarence Williams III
Denise Nicholas
Ritual
Angelle Brooks
Sean Michael Howard
a film by Stanley Bennett Clay
Sometimes the truth is more shocking than make-believe.



BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS:

CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE

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Black Lesbians and Gays:
Continuing the Struggle

1996

Conference

Workshops

09:45 - 11:30am
Sessions

Harm Reduction in HIV Prevention:
Developing New Strategies in Communities of Color
(Health, Co-Gender)

Psycho-social lecture identifies multiple approaches for harm-reduction strategies, effective counseling skills and behavioral modification strategies.
Faculty: J.E. Miles, Jr. / Gay Men's Health Crisis

House of Latex: Peer Mobilization
(AIDS Prevention, Peer Advocacy & Training, Co-Gender)

An interactive and innovative approach to behavior modification and peer mobilization. The House of Latex model addresses the role of peer education in prevention efforts and provides participants with new methods of training community health educators in the rethinking of current prevention education programs.
Faculty: Torrence Allen / Gay Men's Health Crisis

A Question of Life: Addressing the Health Needs
of Lesbians of African Descent
(Womyn's Health, AIDS - Womyn / Specific)

A discussion of issues impacting Black Lesbians including HIV & Cancer prevention. This workshop will include a video presentation and will explore life/safer-sex negotiation skills.
Faculty: La Tina Monique Jackson, Rashida Sha & Valencia McKinley / Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; Lenore Rivers / AIDS Prevention Team

The Status
(AIDS, Psycho-Social - Men/Specific)

A candid and constructive discussion between HIV- positive and HIV- negative Black Gay Men. An overview and assessment of current programs and services available to these populations, and what role does prevention/education messages play in sero-conversion trends.
Faculty: Gavin Morrow-Hall &William Bland / National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; George Bellinger, Jr. / Gay Men of African Descent

01:15 - 03:00pm
Sessions

Prevention Roundtable Discussion for AIDS Service Providers

(AIDS Prevention, Co-Gender - Service Providers/Specific)

A fact-gathering dialog between AIDS service providers/professionals and The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's administration.
Faculty: Phill Wilson /AIDS Project Los Angeles & Dorothy Triplett / Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Removing the Mask of Substance Users: A Comprehensive Approach to Harm Reduction Strategies

(Health, Public Policy, Co-Gender)

A policy discussion of the broad implications for harm reduction strategies including legislation, community participation and models for effective care and treatment.
Faculty: Carrie Broadus / AIDS Project Los Angeles

USCM Bidders Conference: Southern States RFP HIV Prevention for Gay Men of Color (Part I)

(AIDS Funding Development, Geographical /Region - Specific)

Part I is structured as a bidders conference; RFP requirements and strategies for producing competitive proposals

In FY 1996, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), in cooperation with the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will award grants to non-profit organizations providing HIV prevention services to Gay and bisexual Men of Color in the Southern United States, which the CDC defines as Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.
Faculty: J.D. Headley, Jr. / US Conference of Mayors

03:15 - 05:00pm
Sessions

USCM Bidders Conference: Southern States RFP
HIV Prevention for Gay Men of Color (Part II)

(AIDS Funding Development, Geographical - Region/Specific)

Part II of this extended workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to create collaborative proposals as well as an opportunity to solicit feedback from presenters and participants regarding proposal viability . *Prerequisite: Part I*

Faculty: J.D. Headley, Jr. / US Conference of Mayors

HIV Prevention Standards & Strategies for Gay Men of Color

(AIDS Prevention, Co-Gender)

A report of findings gathered by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention's Summit (8/31 - 9/3/95). An analysis of standards methodology and communication tools, as well as a discussion of what national AIDS professionals identified as the success/failures of current prevention efforts in Communities of Color.

Faculty: William Bland / National Task Force on AIDS Prevention

Understanding the Community Planning Process

(Health, Public Policy, Co-Gender)

What is the role of community in determining service delivery, priority setting goals, accountability and quality assurance? How does the Community Planning Process work and what can we do to empower our community's to better address public health concerns?

Faculty: Leo Rennie / Gay Men's Health Crisis

Lesbian Health: Hot Issues & Busting Myths

(Womyn's Health, Co-Gender)

A discussion of women's health issues and how does being a lesbian, bisexual or other womyn who partners with womyn affect our risk and concerns? A focus on cervical and breast cancer, HIV disease and AIDS, including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Current research on lesbian health will be covered and information will be provided outlining ways to become involved in lesbian health and advocacy.

Faculty: Liza Rankow

10:15am - 12:00pm
Sessions

Young, Gifted Lesbian & Gay Youth of Color
(Family Issues, Co-Gender)

An introductory analysis of the factors which impact Gay and Lesbian youth of African descent and the alarming statistics which suggest that this population has a higher incidence of suicide attempts before the age of 18. What community-based services are needed to appropriately respond to the needs of queer and/or questioning youth of color?
Faculty: La Tina Monique Jackson, Rashida Sha & Efren Chavez / Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center

Preserving & Protecting Our Families: Legal Issues for Lesbians, Gay Couples & Parents
(Family Issues, Co-Gender)

Launched in the autumn of 1989, The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is pleased to introduce its Legal Resources for Lesbians of Color ("LOC")Project, and offers conference participants an opportunity to examine legal issues facing Lesbians, Gay Couples & Parents in matters pertaining to adoption; custody, wills, powers of attorney for health care, housing/insurance/employee benefits as well as issues pertaining to US immigration. An update on the same-gender marriage case in Hawaii & it's impact on other domestic issues will be explored.
Faculty: Shannon Minter / National Center for Lesbian Rights

Marketing Strategies for Black Lesbian's and Gay Men in the 90's: Make Money Doing What You Love!
(Economic Development, Co-Gender)

Practical tools for personal economic development is the focus of this presentation. Participants will discover tips to developing a marketing strategy, advertising and promotion. Learn how to turn that family salad dressing recipe into a million dollars!
Faculty: Ta'shia Asanti

Trans Gender Sensitivity Training
(Psycho-Social, Cultural, Health, Co-Gender)

A unique component of Minority AIDS Project's HIV/AIDS Prevention Outreach Program, provides participants with the necessary foundation for understanding this marginalized population and provides an invaluable exchange of ideas about the nature of Trans Genderism & the effeminate male. An interactive and informative view into barriers for prevention efforts, and a tool for combating stigmas to effective care and delivery of services.
Faculty: Valerie C. Spencer / Minority AIDS Project

01:30 - 3:15pm
Sessions

Diversity: Making New Alliances

(Cultural, Public Policy, Co-Gender)

This challenging diversity training offers exercises in building , nurturing and organizing with other People of Color communities. Interactive presentation will address ways of handling diversity issues in the various communities in which we find ourselves.
Faculty: Raul Segura & Pe-I Desrosiers

Film Screening & Discussion of "All God's Children"

(Cultural Spirituality, Grass Roots Organizing, Co-Gender)

Following a screening of the documentary, participants will have the opportunity to learn how issues such as "fighting the religious right" served to motivate community activists to produce this deeply emotional and inspiring film about our contributions to the Black Christian experience. Production, funding sources, filming and film development will also be discussed. Interviewees include: Dr. Marjorie Hill, Phill Wilson, Linda Villarosa, Dr. Cornel West, Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun.
Faculty: Drs. Sylvia Rhue & Dee Mosbacher

Human Rights Issues in Africa

(International Lesbian/Gay & Pan African Issues, Co-Gender)

A focus on the state of affairs for Lesbians and Gays on the African continent and the struggle to gain full equality and protection. This workshop marks the first of it's kind in NBGLLFs nine-year history. Discover how Black American Lesbians and Gay Men can lend support to the international struggle for liberation!
Faculty: Nguru Karugu & Lindsay Peter Thomas / WAZOBIA

Dallas/Fort Worth - Area Strategy Session

(Local Grass Roots Organizing/Specific, Co-Gender)

Conference participants, community members and friends who reside in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are invited to strategize and discuss local issues. Get involved!
Coordinator: Linus Spiller / UJIMA, Dallas

03:30 - 05:15pm
Sessions

Prevention Roundtable Discussion for Communities of Color

(AIDS Prevention, Co-Gender)

A fact-gathering discussion between interested community members and The Centers for disease Control & Prevention's administration.
Faculty: Phill Wilson /AIDS Project Los Angeles & Dorothy Triplett / Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Sharing the Glory, Facing the S--t: A Discussion on Facing Leadership Melt-downs in Targeted Communities

(Leadership Development, Grass Roots Organizing, Co-Gender)

A discussion of the critical issues facing individuals who assume leadership within a community under fire. Review of definitions and attitudes concerning power, power sharing and the meaning of empowerment within a cultural context. Presenters will also explore leadership and management styles and the potential for conflict with cultural context, personal integrity and the development of strategies for successfully weathering the storms.
Faculty: Sabrina Sojourner & Keith Boykin / NBGLLF

Combating Homophobia in Your Community's Schools

(Grass-Roots Organizing, Co-Gender)

How can we combat homophobia in the schools, and what roles do teachers, parents and students play? The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teacher's Network (GLSTN) has developed successful strategies for organizing. Discover the power of coalition building!
Faculty: Deidre Cuffee-Gray & Kevin Jennings / GLSTN

Creating Your Community Based Organization

(Grass Roots Organizing, Co-Gender)

A "roll up your sleeves" interactive discussion about the how to's of forming a community based orgainzation. Using successful models of coalition building, media development and community - based priority setting goals, learn how to develop a strategy that delivers! A special emphasis will be placed on organizing in the South... learn what works and what doesn't.
Faculty: Jacquie Bishop & Darlene Hudson / Arkansas Department of Health

09:30 - 11:30am
Sessions

Strategies for '96: Fighting the Religious Right & Other National Issues

(Electoral Politics, Co-Gender)

Join the fight to stop bigotry, intolerance and homophobia! Learn how the religious right's infiltration of the Black church is creating a hostle environment for Lesbians and Gay men and is undermining our historic role in our communities!

Faculty: Mandy Carter

Model for Community Support Systems for Black Lesbians

(Womyn's Issues, Co-Gender)

The "ABC's" of organizing, building and maintaining a Black Lesbian Support Group! Topical discussion outlines mission statements, volunteer recruitment, marketing strategies, organizational structure and much more...

Faculty: Jannette L. Williams / National Black Lesbian Support Group

01:00-03:00pm
Sessions

First Lesbians & Gays in the Military, Now This: Black Lesbians & Gays Joining The Effort to Win & Keep The Right To Marry

(Grass Roots Organizing, Co-Gender)

Participants will receive an update on the landmark Hawaii 's Supreme Court's decision regarding same sex marriages. Section I will explore the facts of the case and its national implications. Sections II & III will provide participants with a political analysis and an update on the available public opinion polling data.

Faculty: H. Alexander Robinson/ American Civil Liberties Union & Mandy Carter

On Writing: Taking Inspiration from Ordinary Things

(Cultural, Co-Gender)

Explore the significance of being a Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered or Bisexual writer. What can we do to facilitate our writing process? This workshop will examine the nature of creative writing - while providing tips that may make this process easier. This presentation will include a hands-on exercise, a review of participant's writing samples. Don't miss the Co-Gender Reading Slam following this workshop!

Faculty: Rodney McCoy, Jr.

To The Faculty and Artists

of the

Ninth Annual

National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference

In your heart and mind, you hold experiences that are unique to the existence of Black Lesbians and Gay men. We drew from, and were strengthened by, your wisdom. You have shaped the bricks and grounded the wires.

We must celebrate our lives and all that we are. And so it shall be. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the Conference Steering Committee and the Dallas Ujima Committee, thank you for your dedication and commitment to this year's conference.

Faculty

H. Torrence Allen is the Gay Men's Health Crisis' Coordinator of the Lesbian & Gay Young Adult Program. In his volunteer capacity, Torrence has served on the Board of Directors of People of Color in Crisis/Brooklyn, NY and is Director & Chairman of the Board of Directors of Jamaica AIDS Support/New York. His passions include traveling, photography, writing and acting.

Ta'Shia Asanti publishes a monthly, national editorial for Lesbian News and has been published in the LA Times, Alternatives, Lion Nest and her fiction has been published in the Lesbian News, *May I Touch your Satin Softly Book of Erotica, and Just Us* anthology. An accomplished songwriter, her song "Mo Money" was used in the triple Emmy/Golden Globe Award film *Barbarians at the Gate*. With television and film credits, As a actress and singer, she has made appearances in *Beverly Hills Cop III* and a film of Audre Lorde's life, *Our Dead Behind Us.* Ta'Shia operates her own home-based marketing company and resides in Los Angeles, California.

Jacquie Bishop is a native New Yorker, free-lance writer, published poet and short fiction writer. She has worked extensively as a women's healthcare educator and sex/sexuality trainer. Much of her work concerns the political, the personal the sexual, and the unexamined.

William Bland Director of National Programs for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention/San Francisco, California.

Carrie Broadus is a Grass Roots Organizer for the Planning and Public Policy Division of AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), and has sixteen years of business and community development experience as well as ten years of experience in the field of AIDS/HIV disease education and prevention, most notably in the areas of Health Outreach Coordinator/Educator, Group Facilitator, Program Coordinator and Para-Professional Counseling. She currently sits on several California State wide task forces, including Life AIDS Lobby and the State office of AIDS Community Planning Working Group.

Mandy Carter is a national Lesbian activist, lecturer and community organizer. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Kelli M. Evans, Esq. is a Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California who specializes in criminal justice issues, Lesbian & Gay rights and HIV/AIDS discrimination. Kelli holds a J.D. from the University of California, Davis.

Pe-I Desrosiers is a Training Consultant with Gay Men's Health Crisis/New York.

Jubi D. Headley is a Staff Associate/Project Officer with United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) AIDS Program in Washington, DC. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Vassar College, Jubi has served in various volunteer and salaried capacities as an AIDS educator and trainer since 1989. A former Executive Assistant to Mayor Ken Reeves of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Jubi currently resides in Washington, DC.

R. Darlene Hudson is a community organizer, health educator and activist. She is currently the Projects and Grants Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Health.

Faculty

La Tina Monique Jackson is the recipient of an academic scholarship from the Black Women of San Fernando Valley, California, and has received a commendation from the City of Los Angeles for her work with drug and gang affiliated youth. As coordinator of Educational Programs Outreach for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center's Youth Services Department.

Nguru Karugu is a Co-Founder of WAZOBIA, an organization of Lesbians, Gays, bisexuals and Transgendered persons from continental Africa who live in the greater New York area and is an administrator for the Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health for Hunter College's Health Link Project. A resident of New York City, Nguru has been involved in numerous community based organizations, including Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD), Whole Health Support Groups (WHSG) and the People with AIDS Coalition of New York City (PWAC-NYC).

Kim Paula Kirkley, is a Staff Attorney with Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Inc./New York and a graduate of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey School of Law.

J.E. Miles, Jr. is a Harm Reduction & HIV Education Counselor for the Gay Men's Health Crisis' (GMHC) Substance Use Counseling & Education Department. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he has worked for the University of Pittsburgh as Project Recruiter & Research Assistant. He has served as Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Ryan White HIV Planning Council and HIV Prevention Planning Group

Rodney McCoy, Jr. is a 27 year old, African American/Native American writer/health educator/writer. A native New Yorker, he received his BA from Oberlin College. Writing since the age of eleven, Rodney has been published in the Road Before Us, Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS, Buti Voxx, JFY Magazine, and VIBE Magazine. He currently works for the New York City Department of Health, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control as a Senior Public Health Educator, and volunteers for People of Color in Crisis, Inc., providing HIV education, outreach and training.

Shannon Minter is a Staff Attorney and the Director of the Youth Project for the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)/San Francisco, California. A graduate from Cornell Law School, Shannon is also coordinator for the Bay Area Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force.

Dee Mosbacher, MD., Ph.D. is co-producer and co-director of *Straight from the Heart* and the documentary *All God's Children.* She is a long time activist in the San Francisco Bay area and has served on the boards of various organizations, including Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, the American Medical Students Association, Pitzer College and the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (now the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association). Dr. Mosbacher is the outgoing Medical Director of the Mental Health Department of San Mateo County, California and founder of Woman Vision, a non-profit educational media production company

Lindsay Peter -Thomas was reared in Lagos, Nigeria and London, England. As a Lesbian adult educator, Lindsay considers herself to be "a work in progress" and is a student of eastern philosophy and spirituality.

Faculty

Liza Rankow is a nationally known researcher, educator and activist in Lesbian health. She frequently offers training to health care professionals on Lesbian issues and is the author of numerous articles and resource materials. She is presently developing a training package which will allow women from diverse queer communities to conduct Lesbian Health House Parties and serve as peer educators to the women in their social and friendship networks. Liza lives in Durham, North Carolina and works for Duke University Medical Center.

Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., is co-producer of the documentary *All God's Children,* received a Master of Social Work from the University of California at Los Angeles; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Sexuality from the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. She is among the co-founders of the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum, and has extensive work experience as a social worker with such organizations such as the Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled, the Department of Psychiatry at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, and the United Cerebral Palsy of New York City. She has contributed to several video productions, most notably *Before Stonewall, Coming Out Under Fire, One Nation Under God* and *To Support and Defend.* Sylvia resides in Los Angeles, California.

Lenore Rivers is Coordinator of Women's Programs for the AIDS Prevention Team / Los Angeles

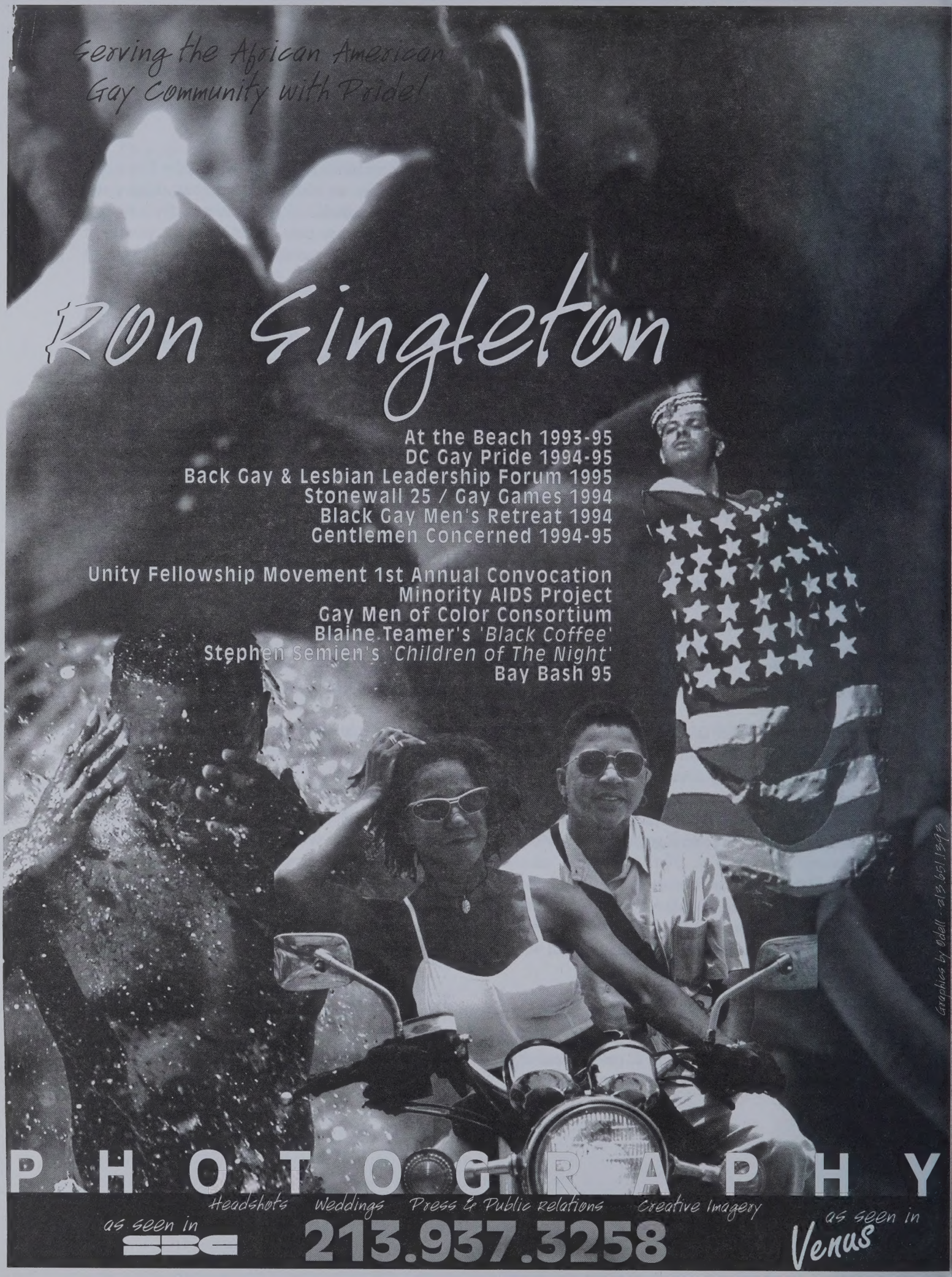
H. Alexander Robinson has served as the chief lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay and Lesbian Rights Project. He was a director of the Campaign for Military Service. Alexander serves as co-chair of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), President of the Board of Directors of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and as chair of the Prevention Committee of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Raul Segura is a Training Consultant currently with Gay Men's Health Crisis/New York.

Sabrina Sojourner is an African American with roots in many gardens and a Lesbian/Feminist/Writer and consultant working with private and public sector organizations interested in setting the pace for the 21st century. Leadership development, organizational and board development, HIV/AIDS prevention education, building spiritual communities, and diversity are among the areas in which she has written, lectured, created and facilitated interactive workshops. Sabrina recently published a collection of her poems and narratives titled Psychic Scars and Other Mad Thoughts.

Valerie C. Spencer is currently a Health Educator for the Minority AIDS Project/Los Angeles and an advisor to the Los Angeles Women's Caucus of the AIDS Regional Board, and the current Los Angeles County HIV Commission. Her Transgender Training Manual for Los Angeles County's Public Health Department was the first of its kind to deal with issues sensitivity and HIV prevention for this unique target population.

Janette Williams is the President of Black Lesbian Support Group (BLSG) of the Whitman Walker Clinic/Washington, DC, which has established chapters in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware. BLSGs focus is peer support, social & cultural activities and education forums designed to heighten awareness of and interest in the Lesbian/Gay community.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Phill Wilson is currently the Director of Policy and Planning for AIDS Project Los Angeles and is Co-founder of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. He is seated on several national and local Boards of Directors, including Minority AIDS Project, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and is a member of the Presidential AIDS Advisory Council; and was the former Co-chair of the Los Angeles County HIV Planning Council. Phill resides in Los Angeles

Gavin Morrow-Hall has resided in San Francisco since 1990, when he resumed the position of Coordinator of Training and Education at the National task Force on AIDS Prevention. Gavin has been an activist in the HIV/AIDS field since 1986. In Los Angeles, he was an educator and case manager with the Minority AIDS Project, and in Newark, New Jersey he coordinated the AIDS Education Project of Planned Parenthood Essex County, a program serving Black and Latino/Hispanic teenagers. Gavin constantly works with individuals and organizations who are either Black/hay identified or who wish to work with Black gay and bisexual men to raise their levels of awareness and understanding, to develop strong leadership amongst them and to make behavior change the norm for the community. In his current position of Director of Technical Assistance and Training, Gavin primarily works as an educator/trainer and as a conference planner. Among his past accomplishments were the Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute held in Oakland, February 1992 and another one held in Dallas, June 1992. He recently completed work on the Brothers Project, an interactive multimedia video designed for Black gay men. This innovative technology is being used to promote and maintain safer sex among Black gay men.

William C. Bland is the Director of National Programs for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP) located in San Francisco. NTFAP is a national minority organization that advocates and serves gay men of color. In this position, William manages NTFAP's national initiatives-technical assistance and training, research & evaluation, community organizing, community prevention planning technical assistance, and treatment advocacy. William comes to NTFAP after several years in the corporate world where he worked in marketing/brand management for several major packaged goods companies such as Kraft, Oral-B and Bayer. He has an educational background in Public Health (BSPH, MPH) and an MBA. William has been living with HIV for over ten years and his life partner is Earnest Hite, Jr.

BROTHER 2 BROTHER

VI

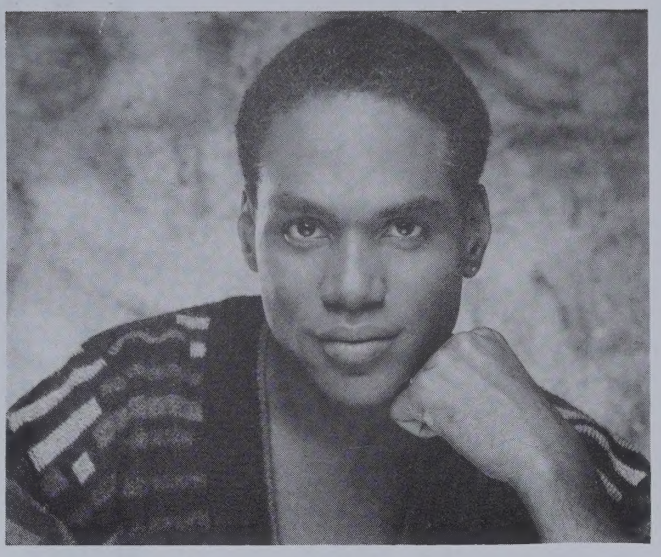
After DC, The Beach Party and Atlanta, join us for the **6th Annual Black Gay Men's Retreat**. This year we're planning the largest ever. Over one hundred Black Gay Men representing each major city. The 1996 B-2-B retreat planning committees are now forming. We want you to be a part of this year's Black Man-To-Black Man weekend of sharing, call us.

213.964.7820

B2B Retreat Committee
1219 S. LaBrea Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019

A Project of The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

The Forum Salutes:



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1219 S. LA BREA AVENUE
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A PROJECT OF
THE BLACK GAY & LESBIAN
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National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

Annual Awards Ceremony

As our community grows larger, stronger and more vocal, so does the need to recognize and acknowledge those who keep our community a viable, living entity.

This year's theme, **"Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle,"** will focus on the ongoing struggles and achievements of our African American Lesbian & Gay community.

With the above theme in mind, we are soliciting nominations for awards in the following areas:

Bayard Rustin Award

Will be awarded to a Black lesbian or gay man who through her/his involvement in the political process or political organizing has advanced the interest and issues of Black lesbians and gay men.

Harriet Tubman Organization Award

Will be awarded to an organization who by providing services to our community has made significant contributions to the welfare of Black lesbians and gay men.

Frederick Garnett Memorial AIDS Award

Will be awarded to an individual who through her/his volunteerism and other work has made life saving contributions to AIDS care, education and prevention.

Audre Lorde, James Baldwin Black Quill Awards

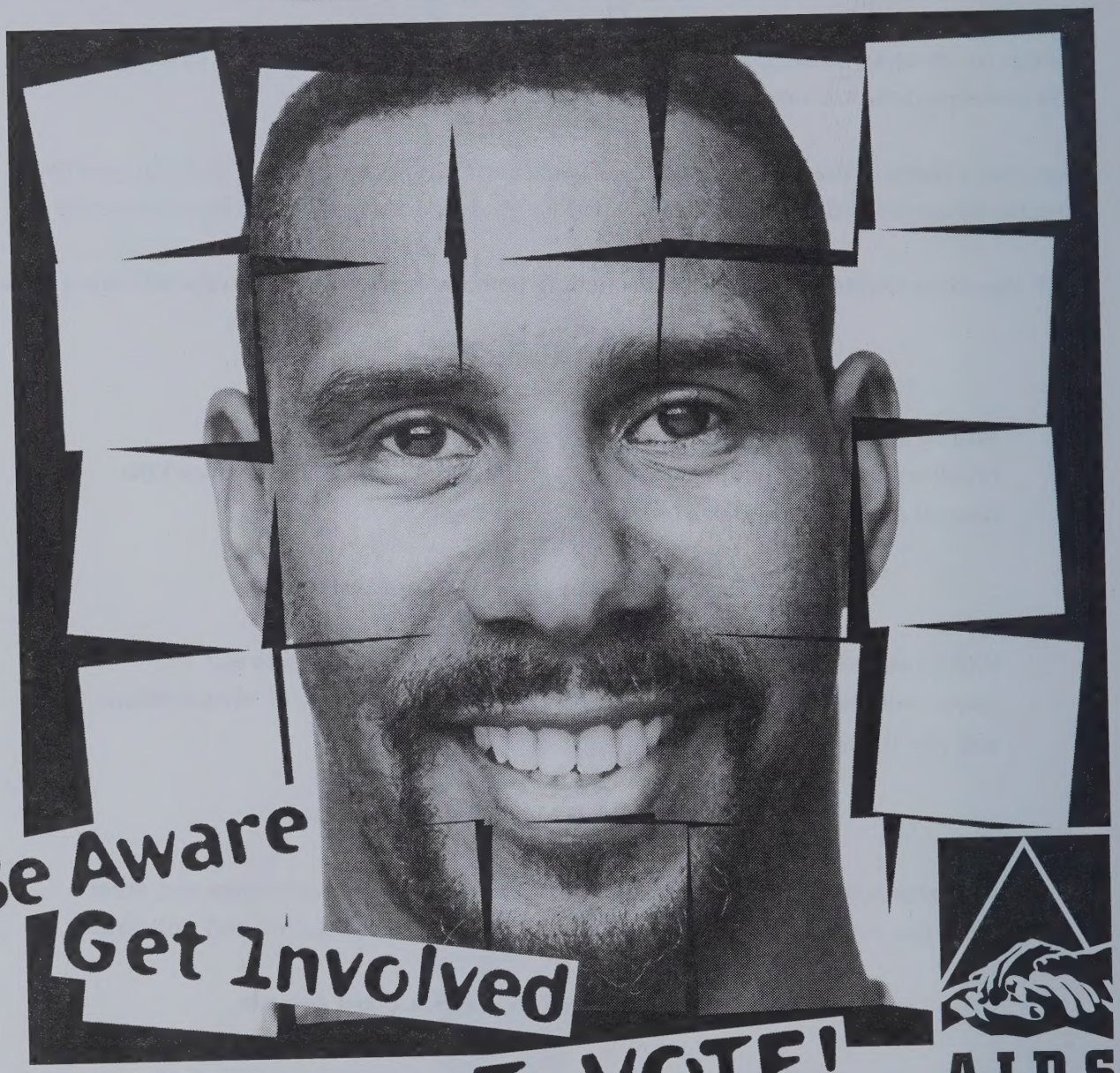
Will be awarded to a Black lesbian and a gay man involved in writing, performing and/or the visual arts who through her/his work projects positive images and/or messages about our community.

Mable Hampton Award

For outstanding contributions to the lesbian community.

You Have the Power to make a difference.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!



AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

Come Together. Call (213) 993-1680 for your free AIDS Project Los Angeles grass roots information packet and voter registration card.

Conference Directory

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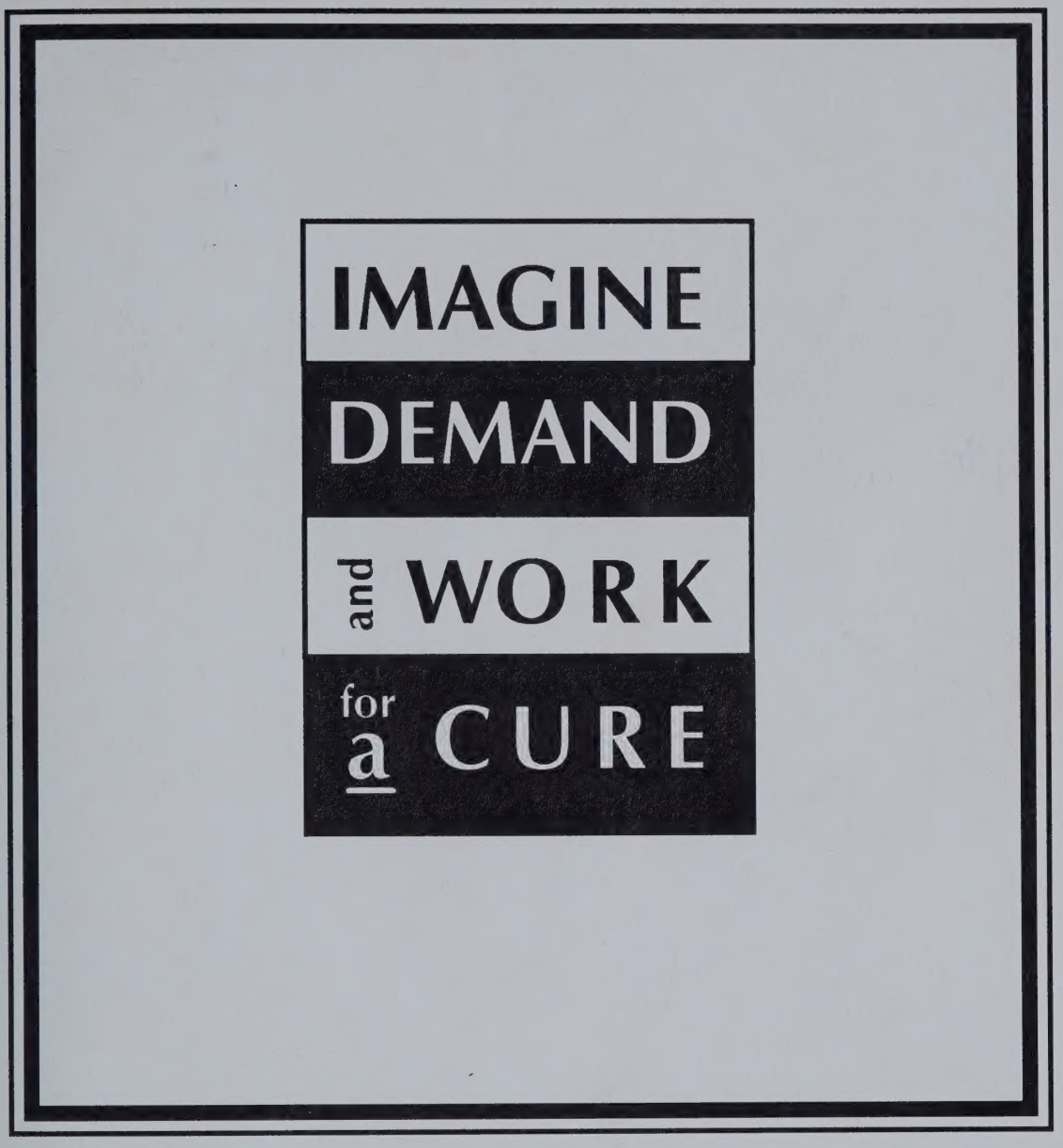

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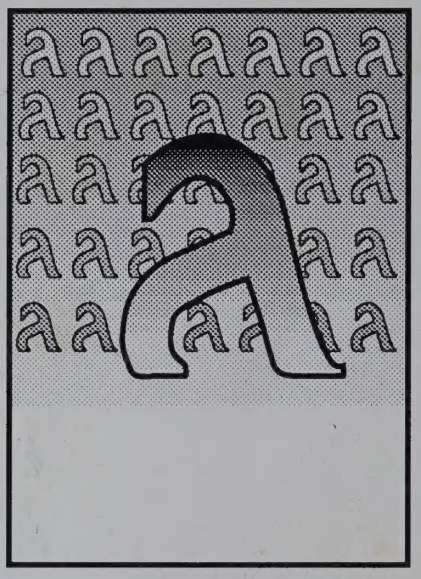

Celebrates

The Tenth Annual
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Los Angeles, California

February 13-17, 1997

For more information, call (213) 964-7820 or write:
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